

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 13-16, 19-22, 26 and 27 are pending, with claims 1, 13 and 27 being the independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated the presence of allowable subject matter in claims 8, 9 and 13-16. By this amendment, claim 13 has been placed in independent form. Claims 14-16 are dependent on claim 13. As such, claims 13-16 are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 27

Claim 27 has been written in independent form, and has also been amended to define a faucet comprising, among other features, a particular relationship between the transverse end wall of the bonnet and the actuator rod portion of the stem. The aperture defined in the end wall of the bonnet defines a non-circular shape, and the actuator rod of the stem also defines a non-circular shape that is slidably received in the aperture so that the stem is restrained against rotation relative to the bonnet by a non-rotational relationship of the actuator rod in the aperture.

None of the documents of record disclose or fairly suggest the structure defined in claim 27, wherein the actuator rod of the stem is non-rotatably engaged with an aperture of the bonnet to prevent rotation therebetween, in combination with the other features. This is important in a faucet as defined in claim 27 to ensure that the flow characteristics of the faucet are optimized and for aesthetics to ensure proper positioning of the handle during use. The Carlson, Pohlman and Bucknell documents do not disclose or fairly

suggest such a structure; each includes a circular actuator rod portion of the stem. It is respectfully submitted that claim 27 defines patentably over the documents of record.

Claims 1, 5, 8 and 9

Claim 1 has been amended to define the faucet thereof more clearly. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 defines over the Carlson, Pohlman and Bucknell documents and all other documents of record.

It is noted that amended claim 1 specifies that the first portion of the stem that defines a flow path is closely slidably received in the outlet opening of the main bore, so that the first portion of the stem is cleaned by shearing action when the faucet closes. Pohlman discloses a different sealing arrangement that relies upon mating conical surfaces and, as such, is submitted not to disclose or suggest the faucet of claim 1.

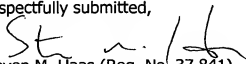
With respect to Carlson, the faucet thereof does not include a bonnet as defined in claim 1, including a hollow chamber and a dispensing spout bore, and being releasably connected to the body. In Carlson, the body, itself, defines the chamber and spout, and there is no comparable bonnet structure. Instead, the faucet of Carlson uses a diaphragm 160 to seal the open end of the body. Furthermore, Carlson does not disclose or suggest a faucet having a handle as defined in claim 1, wherein the handle comprises a cam portion that bears against the bonnet. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the Carlson document.

Claim 1 has been amended to include subject matter of claims 2-4, 6 and 7 and these claims were not rejected based upon Bucknell. As such, it is respectfully submitted that Bucknell is not applicable to amended claim 1. Bucknell discloses a nozzle having a different structure and function as compared to the faucet of amended claim 1.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims define patentably over the documents of record, and that this application meets all other statutory requirements. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "St. M. Haas", written over the typed name.

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